

## Late Winter/Early Spring: Roads & Closures

*All spring openings depend on weather and, in some areas, conditions left by the 2015 Rough Fire. 24-hour road updates: 559-565-3341, then press 1, then press 1 again.*

### Generals Highway between the parks:

- From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove) may close during and after snowstorms. The road may remain closed due to snowfall as late as March 18.

### In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest (USFS):

- Hwy 180 down to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: Closed by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, around April 22-25.
- Panoramic Point Road: Open by 5/25. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads: Open by 5/25. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- Converse Basin, Cherry Gap, & other roads in the area of the Rough Fire (USFS): Closed by Forest Service until announced. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

### In Sequoia National Park:

- **Parking in Giant Forest area:** Across from the Giant Forest Museum. Restroom open 24 hours. Sherman Tree parking along Generals Highway and, unless snow falls, off the Wolverton Road (follow signs).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Open by 5/25 (see more on page 6). No drinking water along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Reopens May 14.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** Through March 18 the road is plowed Friday–Sunday plus Wednesdays and some holidays. Area is open other days if the road is passable and safe without plowing. (See page 6 for details.)
- **Mineral King Road:** Open 5/25, conditions permitting. For access past the first gate before then, call Foothills Visitor Center (see page 2).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork open by 3/16; park at Hospital Rock.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Chains May be Required at Any Time

Always carry chains that fit your tires and obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are also required often, and most cars have them. Check the side of your tires: If you see *M / S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snowtire.

### Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars.

### Check conditions before going uphill

Call for 24-hour recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341, then press 1, then 1 again. Check your antifreeze, battery, and wipers, and carry clothing layers and a flashlight.

### Clear Snow Off Car Roofs Before Driving

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking vision.

### Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop. Slow down but do not stop. They usually plow 6am–6pm.

### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit wildlife that waits for handouts on roadsides.

## Driving Times

### When roads are clear and open:

#### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour minimum</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
Opens May 25	

#### From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy	<b>1 hour</b>
May be closed through 3/18 if snowy	

#### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
Open late April	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
(via Hwy 41)	

**Note:** GPS often misdirects travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.

## Gas Up Outside the Parks

No gas stations lie within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or in the USFS at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Usually available 24 hours with credit card (not international cards) all year. 9 miles north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Closed until 5/5: Stony Creek Resort.

## Vehicle Length Limits

On Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- **Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum:** longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- **Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground:** longer than 24 feet not recommended.

**Alternatives:** Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

